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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/907,908	07/19/2001	Andre Messager	Q65332	9943

7590 07/07/2004

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EXAMINER

KNOWLIN, THJUAN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2642	

DATE MAILED: 07/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/907,908

Applicant(s)

MESSAGER ET AL.

Examiner

Thjuan P Knowlin

Art Unit

2642

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bressler (US 6,584,190).
2. In regards to claims 1, 4, 5, and 8, Bressler discloses a method and network of providing the preferential facility of obtaining particular calls between users manner by reserving circuit segments for some users of a communication network (telephony communications system 10) in the event that said particular calls are established via at least two switching nodes (SSPs 20) of said network, in the context of a network constituted so that each call requested by a user via a terminal (subscriber terminals 12) is set up via a circuit for connecting said terminal to the terminal of a called user, said circuits comprising one circuit segment or a plurality of circuit segments connected in series, when said call is set up via a plurality of switching nodes of said network, each segment being selected from available circuit segments on a trunk between two switching nodes so that a circuit is set up enabling the calling user and the called user

to communicate (col. 4 lines 18-44), which method includes the following operations: permanently reserving at least one circuit segment on each trunk between nodes needed to set up circuits for each of said particular calls between users for which a preferred user attribute has been granted to at least one particular user of the two users concerned (col. 5 lines 23-39), and dynamically allocating circuit segments selected from said reserved segments and needed to set up a circuit from said terminal of one user who has a preferred user attribute for particular calls in the event of a call set-up request by one of said users in respect of a call for which he has been granted a preferred user attribute (col. 5 lines 6-22 and col. 10 lines 17-25).

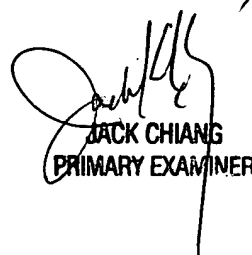
3. In regards to claims 2 and 6, Bressler discloses the method and network, wherein a preferred user attribute is assigned to each user and corresponds to a particular category indication in the case of preferred users included in the calling user identifier that is transmitted for setting up a circuit at the time of a call request (col. 5 lines 6-22 and col. 5 lines 45-67).

4. In regards to claims 3 and 7, Bressler discloses the method and network, wherein minimum-cost algorithm used to choose a circuit set up time of a call request gives priority to choosing the shortest circuit set up via one or more reserved circuit segments in series when the request emanates from a user who has a preferred user attribute relating to the call requested and uses an unreserved circuit segment of a trunk if no reserved segments of said trunk are available and said trunk has at least one unreserved segment available at the time (col. 9 lines 3-29).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. McAllister et al (US 6,560,218) teach SVC routing in network with static routing tables. Peterson et al (US 5,170,393) teach adaptive routing of messages in parallel and distributed processor systems.
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan P Knowlin whose telephone number is (703) 308-1727. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30pm.
7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (703)305-4731. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.
8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thjuan P. Knowlin
June 24, 2004


JACK CHIANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER